

Amendment to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

1. (Original) A method of procuring a supplemental worker for a job, comprising:
receiving a request form from a hiring entity for a supplemental worker, said request form including:
a work location;
at least one skill type;
a skill level associated with said at least one skill type; and
a quantity of supplemental workers required for performing said job;
generating a list of at least one supplier candidate by accessing a data repository, said list of at least one supplier candidate satisfying criteria provided in said request form; and
providing said list of at least one supplier candidate to said hiring entity;
wherein said data repository stores predefined skill types, predefined skill levels, supplier locations, and pre-negotiated pay rates.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
upon acceptance of said request form, automatically transmitting said request form to a requisitioning tool, said requisitioning tool operable for generating a requisition; and
upon approval of said requisition, automatically transmitting said requisition to a procurement engine, said procurement engine operable for generating a purchase order.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said skill types are coded and selectable by said hiring entity.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said request form includes an editable text field operable for entering a skill type.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said request form includes a pay category option operable for calculating a salary.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein information relating to said list of at least one supplier candidate is stored in said data repository, said information including:

a supplier name;

a supplier address;

a supplier telephone number;

a point of contact; and

pre-negotiated pricing information based upon skill types and skill levels.

7. (Original) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for procuring a supplemental worker for a job, said storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement:

receiving a request form from a hiring entity for a supplemental worker, said request form including:

a work location;

at least one skill type;

a skill level associated with said at least one skill type; and

a quantity of supplemental workers required for performing said job;

generating a list of at least one supplier candidate by accessing a data repository, said list of at least one supplier candidate satisfying criteria provided in said request form; and

providing said list of at least one supplier candidate to said hiring entity;

wherein said data repository stores predefined skill types, predefined skill levels, supplier locations, and pre-negotiated pay rates.

8. (Original) The storage medium of claim 7, further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

upon acceptance of said request form, automatically transmitting said request form to a requisitioning tool, said requisitioning tool operable for generating a requisition; and

upon approval of said requisition, automatically transmitting said requisition to a procurement engine, said procurement engine operable for generating a purchase order.

9. (Original) The storage medium of claim 7 wherein said skill types are coded and selectable by said hiring entity.

10. (Original) The storage medium of claim 7, wherein said request form includes an editable text field operable for entering a skill type.

11. (Original) The storage medium of claim 7, wherein said request form includes a pay category option operable for calculating a salary.

12. (Original) The storage medium of claim 7, wherein information relating to said list of at least one supplier candidate is stored in said data repository, said information including:

a supplier name;

a supplier address;

a supplier telephone number;

a point of contact; and

pre-negotiated pricing information based upon skill types and skill levels.

13. (Original) An integrated system for procuring a supplemental worker for a job comprising:

a host system in communication with at least one hiring entity, at least one supplier entity, and a commodity council entity, said host system comprising:

a server executing a requisitioning tool, a procurement engine, and a workflow application;

a data repository in communication with said server via a network, said data repository storing predefined skill types, predefined skill levels, supplier locations, and pre-negotiated pay rates;

a supplemental workforce system executing on said server; and

a request form generated by said supplemental workforce system;

wherein said supplemental workforce system performs:

receiving a completed request form from a hiring entity for a supplemental worker, said completed request form including a work location, at least one skill type, a skill level associated with said at least one skill type, and a quantity of supplemental workers required for performing said job;

generating a list of at least one supplier candidate by accessing said data repository, said list of at least one supplier candidate satisfying criteria provided in said completed request form; and

providing said list of at least one supplier candidate to said hiring entity.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said supplemental workforce system automatically transmits said completed request form with an approved supplier candidate to said requisitioning tool operable for generating a requisition.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein said supplemental workforce system automatically transmits said requisition to said procurement engine operable for generating a purchase order.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein hiring entities represent distinct divisions of a business enterprise seeking the supplemental worker, each of the hiring entities distinguished by geographic location, organization structure, and commodity group.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein each of the commodity groups is managed by an associated commodity council entity, the commodity council entities performing:

negotiating and maintaining agreements with core workforce suppliers;

adding and changing core workforce suppliers;

creating and modifying rate tables; and

ensuring that associated hiring entities are in compliance with regard to procuring core workforce suppliers at the pre-negotiated pay rates.

18. (New) The storage medium of claim 7, wherein hiring entities represent distinct divisions of a business enterprise seeking the supplemental worker, each of the hiring entities

distinguished by geographic location, organization structure, and commodity group.

19. (New) The storage medium of claim 18, wherein each of the commodity groups is managed by an associated commodity council entity, the commodity council entities performing:

negotiating and maintaining agreements with core workforce suppliers;

adding and changing core workforce suppliers;

creating and modifying rate tables; and

ensuring that associated hiring entities are in compliance with regard to procuring core workforce suppliers at the pre-negotiated pay rates.

20. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein hiring entities represent distinct divisions of a business enterprise seeking the supplemental worker, each of the hiring entities distinguished by geographic location, organization structure, and commodity group; and

wherein each of the commodity groups is managed by an associated commodity council entity, the commodity council entities performing:

negotiating and maintaining agreements with core workforce suppliers;

adding and changing core workforce suppliers;

creating and modifying rate tables; and

ensuring that associated hiring entities are in compliance with regard to procuring core workforce suppliers at the pre-negotiated pay rates.